



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Tetsuya WATANABE et al.

Appl. No. 09/981,807

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For: SHAFT SEALING APPARATUS

Art Unit: 3676  
Confirmation No. 7561

Examiner: Vishal A. Patel

Atty. Docket No. 36595-176071



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

**Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. §§1.111 and 1.121**

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Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated April 15, 2003, Applicants submit the following  
Amendment and Reply.

No fees are required. However, if the Patent Office deems that any fees are necessary,  
authorization is hereby granted to charge any required fees to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.